

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER

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67th NATIONAL FILM AWARDS PRESENTED IN NEW DELHI



[Ashok Rane receiving the National Award from the Vice President of India in New Delhi]

The 67th National Film Awards for 2019, scheduled to be conferred on 3 May 2020, announced on 22 March 2021, finally presented to the awardees by the Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu at a colorful ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 25 Oct 2021. The 51st 'Dadasaheb Phalke Award' - the highest State Honour of India, was given to the actor Rajinikanth. 'Golden Lotus' - the Award for the Best Feature Film was given to 'Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea' (Malayalam) directed by Priyadarshan. The Best Debut Feature Award also went to a Malayalam Film 'Helen' directed by Mathukutty Xavier. Kangana Ranaut received the Best Actress Award for her performances in the Hindi Feature Films 'Manikarnika' and 'Panga'. The Best Actor Award was given to Manoj Bajpayee for 'Bhonsle' (Hindi) and Dhanush for 'Asuran' (Tamil). Vinod Kamble's 'Kastoori' (Hindi) received the Best Children's Film Award. This film won the 'Special Mention' by the FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury at the 7th Aurangabad International Film Festival in Feb 2020. Ashok Rane, a veteran Member of FIPRESCI-India and Director of the Aurangabad International Film Festival, received the National Award for Special Jury Mention for his Marathi book 'Cinema Pahanara Manus' (A Man Who Watches Movies). This is the third National Award Ashok Rane received for his writings on cinema. He got it first time in 1996 for his book 'Cinemachi Chittarkatha' (A Story of Cinema) which was about the history of cinema published first time in Marathi. In 2003, Rane got the 2nd National Award as the Best Film Critic. His 3rd National Award-winning book 'A Man Who Watches Movies' with a foreword by Shyam Benegal is coming out in English very soon.

EUROPEAN DISCOVERY 2021 – PRIX FIPRESCI



A committee comprised of the European Film Academy Board Members Anita Juka (Croatia) and Joanna Szymańska (Poland), producer/screenwriter Paula Alvarez Vaccaro (UK, Italy), producer Vladimer Katcharava (Georgia), and film critics Marta Balaga (Finland, Poland), Janet Baris (Turkey), Andrei Plakhov (Russia), Frédéric Ponsard (France) and Britt Sørensen (Norway) as the representatives of FIPRESCI have nominated the following six films for the EUROPEAN

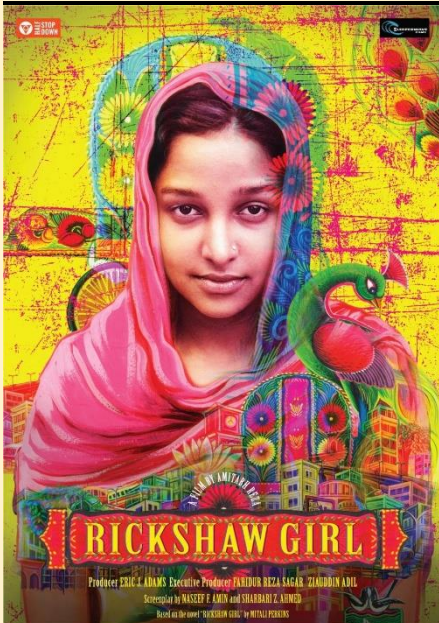
DISCOVERY 2021 – Prix FIPRESCI, an Award presented every year as a part of the European Film Awards to a debutant director: 1. 'Beginning' (France, Georgia) by Dea Kulumbegashvili, (2) 'Lamb' (Iceland, Sweden, Poland) by Valdimar Jóhannsson (3) 'Playground' (Belgium) by Laura Wandel (4) 'Pleasure' (Sweden, Netherlands, France) by Ninja Thyberg, (5) 'Promising Young Woman' (USA, UK) by Emerald Fennell and (6) 'The Whaler Boy' (Russia, Poland, Belgium) by Philipp Yuryev. The European Discovery 2021 – Prix FIPRESCI will be presented to the winner at the 34th European Film Awards Ceremony on 11 Dec 2021. [Pic: Promising Young Woman]

EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL EGYPT

Mounia Akl's Arabic film 'Costa Brava, Lebanon' (Lebanon, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Qatar, 2021, 106 mins) won the FIPRESCI Award in the 5th El Gouna Film Festival held physically in Egypt from 14 to 22 Oct 2021. Helen Barlow (Australia), Mohamed Nabil (Egypt) and Michela Manente (Italy) were there in the FIPRESCI Jury. The film tells the story of a couple who decide to leave the toxic pollution of Beirut, dreaming to build a utopian existence in a pure home in the mountains. 'Golden Award' - the highest official one for feature narrative section, won by Teemnu Nikki's thriller 'The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic' (Finland, 2021, 82 mins). The film narrates an intense story from a blind man's point of view.



SCHLINGEL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



'My Very Own Circus' (Canada, 2020, 100 mins) by Miryam Bouchard won the FIPRESCI Award in the 26th Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences held in Chemnitz, Germany, from 9 to 16 Oct 2021. The FIPRESCI Jury was composed of Geri Krebs (Switzerland), Ivan Magrin-Chagnolleau (France) and Sebastiaan Floris Khouw (Netherlands). The film tells the story of a 13-year-old girl Laura who grew up in a circus family. After her mother's death she travels in the trailer with Father Bill, a clown, and his mute assistant Mandeep. Laura dreams of settling down and going to a good school. SLM Top Award of the festival won by Amitabh Reza Chowdhury for his film 'Rickshaw Girl' (Bangladesh, 2021, 101 mins) which tells the story of a brave village girl Naima who would do anything to help her struggling family. To earn money, she rushes to the crowded capital city Dhaka notoriously (in)famous for innumerable cycle rickshaws running in the city. Pretending as a boy Naima becomes a rickshaw driver which is only allowed for the males in Bangladesh. Novera Rahman's performance as a city rickshaw driver Naima is simply brilliant.

WARSAW INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

37th Warsaw International Film Festival held in Warsaw, Poland from 8 to 17 Oct 2021. FIPRESCI Jury composed of Irena Kotelovich (Belarus), Jan Storø (Norway) and Ladislav Volko (Slovakia) gave the FIPRESCI Award for best debut from Eastern Europe to the film: 'The Hill Where Lionesses Roar' (Kosovo, France, 2021, 83 mins) directed by Luàna Bajrami with a citation saying it a "Fresh and interesting debut work that caught our interest. It is both about three girls and about a country. Dreams and realities are mixed in an image-driven story."

Young FIPRESCI Award for best debut from Eastern Europe was given to the film 'In Limbo / Mezhsezon'e' (Russia, 2021, 111 mins) by Alexander Khant by the Jury composed of Dora Leu (Romania), Anna Sołowiej (Poland), Maria Tokmasheva (Russia), Nikola Jovic (Serbia), Antoni Konieczny (Poland) and Luca Vlaho (Bosnia and Herzegovina).



father's country, before the civil war. After her grandmother's death she decided to explore her roots and the documentary is the trajectory of that search.

FESTIVAL OF NEW CINEMA

Feature length documentary 'Damascus Dreams' (Canada, 2021, 84 mins) by Émilie Serri won the FIPRESCI Award in the 50th Festival du Nouveau Cinéma held in Montréal, Canada from 6 to 17 Oct 2021. The FIPRESCI Jury composed of Pedro Almeida Tavares, Jérôme Michaud and Victor Paz Morandeira selected the best first feature length film from any section of the festival. Director of the film Émilie Serri was born in Canada. She had only visited Syria, her

BUSAN INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

'Seire' (Korea, 2021, 102 mins) by Park Kang won the FIPRESCI Award in the 26th Busan International Film Festival (6-15 Oct 2021). FIPRESCI Award is given to well-made works that reflect its experimental and progressive spirit, among those presented in the New Currents Section of the festival. The



FIPRESCI Jury composed of Nada Azhari Gillon (France), Wang Hsin (Taiwan) and Kim Nemo (Korea) said in their citation: "Between ghosts' legends inspired by folk traditions and the anguish of today's man facing the birth of a child, a creative film where realism and fantastic are combined. A drama served by a rigorous direction that makes the most of the sober playing of the main actor." The New Currents Award was given jointly to two films 'Farewell, Hometown' (China, 2021, 83 mins) by Er Zhuo Wang and 'The Apartment with Two Women' (Korea, 2021, 140 mins) by Kim Se-in. Kim Jiseok Award was also given jointly to two films 'The Rapist' (India, 2021, 132 mins) by Aparna Sen and 'Gensan Punch' (Philippines, Japan, 2021, 110 mins) by Brillante Ma Memndoza with a Special Jury Mention to 'The Bargain' (China, 2021, 118 mins) by Wang Qi. The Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award was presented to IM Kwon-taek who debuted in 1962 with his film 'Farewell Duman River' and so far directed more than 100 films. He made his place in world cinema after receiving the Best Director Award at the Cannes in 2002 with the film 'ChiHwaSeon'. [Pic: Seire]

INDIA'S OSCAR ENTRY DECLARED BY FILM FEDERATION OF INDIA



Tamil feature film 'Pebbles' (Koozhangal, India, 2021, 74 mins) directed by Vinothraj P S which won the coveted Tiger Award in Rotterdam International Film Festival has been selected as the Oscar Entry (94th Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film Section) of India for 2021 by the Film Federation of India (FFI), the apex body of the Indian film industry. Firdausul Hasan, President of FFI informed the news in a press conference held in Kolkata on 23 Oct 2021 where the members of the Jury headed by Shaji N Karun were also present [*pic. above*]. The film is inspired by the personal life of its director Vinothraj P S from Madurai. A school drop-out while in class IV due to poverty Vinothraj was compelled to become a child labourer at an early age of 8 and worked in a textile factory in Tiruppur for about 11 years. After that he started selling DVDs at a roadside shop in Chennai and subsequently got introduced to some people from the Tamil film industry. Later he joined as an assistant to the Tamil filmmaker Sargunam and worked with him for about four years for his two films. Vinothraj [*pic. in frame*] then worked as an assistant director for 'Manal Magudi', a postmodernist theatre troupe established by Muruga Boopathy in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. His debut feature film 'Pebbles' also won the Best Film Award of the Golden Apricot Film Festival Yerevan 2021, and Special Jury Award in Transilvania International Film Festival Romania 2021.



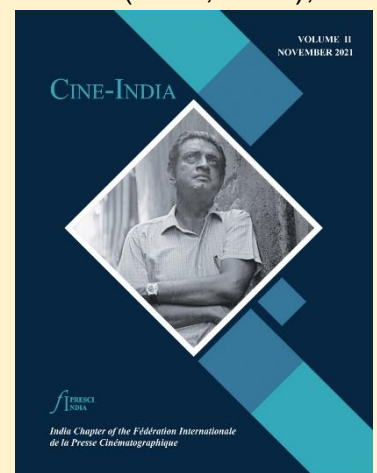
Film Award in Docudays UA International Documentary Human Rights FF (Kyiv, Ukraine, 2021) and Public Award in Festival International de Cine UNAM Mexico 2021.

GOLDEN APRICOT FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Award named after Peter Van Bueren was given to the documentary 'Taming the Garden' (Switzerland, Germany, Georgia, 2021, 92 mins) by Salomé Jashi in the 18th Golden Apricot Film Festival Yerevan, Armenia held from 3 to 10 Oct 2021. Dominic Schmid (Switzerland) and Mike Naafs (Netherlands) were in the FIPRESCI Jury. Earlier the film won the Young Jury Mention in Cinéma du Réel (Paris, 2021), Best

CINE-INDIA VOL-II COMING OUT IN NOVEMBER

First volume of CINE-INDIA, the annual printed journal of FIPRESCI-India, was published in Nov 2019 during the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa. In 2020 it could not be published due to the pandemic disaster for which even the 51st IFFI was deferred to Jan 2021 in a hybrid format. The second volume of CINE-INDIA is now being published in due time keeping pace with the 52nd IFFI coming up in Goa from 20 to 28 Nov 2021 according to its usual schedule.



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